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RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 2284  
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI 5598  
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL KOLKATA 4811  
RUEHNEH/AMCONSUL HYDERABAD 1372  
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 2686  
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 6673  
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 3125  
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI 9931  
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RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 7282  
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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: TERRORISM/INDIA-PAKISTAN  
RELATIONS, IRAN, AFGHANISTAN; NEW DELHI.

This countrywide cable reports on relevant media reaction/opinion from India's large non-English press. The Mission reports on English-language media via email through the daily "Early Edition" summary.

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TERRORISM/INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS  
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¶1. "ENVIRONMENT BEFORE TALKS," editorial in February 14 Hindi daily, DAINIK JAGRAN: "Only a miracle can make the India-Pakistan talks work in the wake of the rhetoric from both sides. It is a result of India's weak diplomacy that Pakistan keeps raising the Kashmir issue, whereas India should be surrounding the latter on the issue of Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir. India should make some fundamental changes in its Kashmir policy. This dialogue may make Pakistan and the U.S. happy, but India will not gain anything from of it."

¶2. "PUNE TERROR ATTACK: TERRORISTS ARE AT HOME," editorial in February 15 left-of-center Marathi daily, LOKSATTA: "India's administrators have not yet realized the seriousness of the bomb blast in Pune. It was likely an attack on foreigners in India, particularly Americans. There is another possibility - Islamic extremists from across the border are seething with anti-Israel sentiment and want to take it out on America for its pro-Israel foreign policy."

¶3. "A SECURITY ISSUE FOR INDIA: PUNE ATTACK," editorial

in February 15 left-of-center Marathi daily,  
MAHARASHTRA TIMES: "India is a soft target for groups  
like Lashkar."

¶4. "SHOULD WE HOLD BILATERAL TALKS WITH PAKISTAN?"  
editorial in February 16 centrist Marathi daily,  
PRAHAR: "The opposition parties, especially the BJP,  
has objected to the forthcoming foreign secretary-level  
talks with Pakistan, more so in the context of the Pune  
terror attack, which is seen as another terror assault  
from across the India-Pakistan border. It will be  
difficult for the government to decide if it should or  
should not hold any dialogue with this rogue neighbor.  
If the Pune terror conspiracy clearly points an  
accusing finger at Pakistan, or if some startling  
revelation comes in the days before the February 25  
talks deadline, India will definitely have to take a  
clear policy decision on this count."

¶5. "ONE MORE SLAP IN THE FACE," editorial in February  
15 right-of-center Gujarati daily, GUJARAT  
SAMACHAR: "The Pune bomb blast is a slap in the face of  
our government that has been bragging about the  
security apparatus in place after the Mumbai attacks.  
Indian leaders don't seem to care for citizens lives."

¶6. "WHAT IS THE MEANING OF DIALOGUE WITH  
PAKISTAN?" editorial in February 16 centrist Gujarati  
daily, DIVYA BHASKAR: "The shadow of the Pune bomb  
blast looms large over the scheduled dialogue process

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with Pakistan. Maybe America's pressure is behind  
India's eagerness to start the dialogue process with  
Pakistan. Besides, Pakistani authorities have been  
trumpeting that it is India that is craving for  
dialogue in the first place. Can any peace talks yield  
any fruitful results under such a climate?"

¶7. "CARELESS AND NEUTRAL ADMINISTRATION," editorial in  
February 16 right-of-center Gujarati daily, MUMBAI  
SAMACHAR: "America has pressured India and created a  
safety net for Pakistan. America is doing all this so  
that its soldiers remain safe in Iraq and Afghanistan  
where the Pakistani soldiers can confront the Taliban.  
What is safety of India and her citizens in midst of  
such politics?"

¶8. "LET THE TALKS START," editorial in February 16  
Leftist Kolkata Bengali daily, GANASHAKTI: "Even the  
fools understand that terrorists are desperate to  
continue their attacks on Indian targets. So, it would  
be meaningless to please them by postponing resumption  
of Indo-Pak talks. There are lots of important issues  
related to improvement and livelihood of people in both  
countries. The ray of hope will emerge only if Pakistan  
prioritizes counterterrorism efforts. India too will  
have to adopt effective ways of combating terrorism."

¶9. "IT HAPPENED ONCE AGAIN," editorial in February 15  
right-of-center Urdu daily HINDUSTAN EXPRESS: "Once  
again the progress in Indo-Pak dialogue is about to be  
sabotaged by acts of terrorism. Whenever these two  
countries are about to sit for talks, an act of  
terrorism takes place. No doubt, the first and foremost  
objective of bombers is to sabotage the efforts of  
restoring peace in the sub-continent."

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IRAN  
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¶10. "IRAN'S NUCLEAR AMBITION," commentary in February  
15 Hindi daily, AMAR UJALA: "The stricter the West  
becomes, the more rebellious Iran emerges on its  
nuclear program. Iran needs to be taken seriously."

¶11. "IRAN'S GROWL," editorial in February 13 Hindi daily, AMAR UJALA: "Iran may have announced its new nuclear achievement, but can it be called a nuclear power? Ahmadinejad's declaration on the occasion of the 31st anniversary of Islamic Revolution is ridiculous. Iran, actually, wants to divert attention from its internal challenges by focusing on nukes. Iran's new generation believes in economic reforms and modernity. But, the government tries to suppress the resistance either by projecting a fear of U.S. and Russia or through its nuclear tricks. Iran should better concentrate on its domestic problems instead of growling at external forces."

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AFGHANISTAN

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¶12. "AFGHANISTAN AT PAKISTAN'S MERCY," op-ed article in February 15 Hindi daily, DAINIK JAGRAN: "If Afghanistan's future goes according to the London conference decision, it will cause serious problems in the Indian subcontinent. Firstly, the West will present Afghanistan to Pakistan, which it believes to be capable of preventing the Al-Qaida from growing. Secondly, Pakistan's diplomatic intervention will rapidly aggravate tension in Kashmir. Thirdly, the Muslim community will incline towards radicalism having expelled two superpowers from Afghanistan within three decades. Since India has been kept out of the London Conference, it should reconsider its policy of not sending its army abroad."  
ROEMER